

THANK YOU

HOSPITAL STAFF

Dear Hospital Staff,

There really are no words to express our gratitude for what you do every day! On July 17, 2008, we were faced with the gut-wrenching reality that our energetic, full-of-life, 8-year-old daughter, Claire, would not be going home from the hospital with us.

Just 24 hours earlier she was rushed to surgery with a broken arm. What we thought would be a routine surgery and recovery, quickly turned into a parent's worst nightmare! Our daughter had an undetected AVM at the base of her brainstem. Several hours following surgery the AVM ruptured and Claire began to have seizures; we were told she had suffered catastrophic brain damage from the bleeding.

We will never really understand, physiologically, the timeline of events that led to Claire's death, but we will forever hold in our hearts the compassion, empathy and sensitivity the hospital staff showed our family during those days. Nurses, doctors and radiology staff cried with us; chaplains held our hands and prayed with us; support staff hugged us. And as we were faced with the decision to donate Claire's organs, we felt so supported and cared for by everyone that spoke to us. As our family continues on our journey without Claire, we continually reflect on the love and blessings we received from those who selflessly give of themselves everyday to care for hurting families. We are so thankful that even in the most difficult hours of our lives, there were strangers who we now call "family", to carry us through those moments.

"Give Thanks to Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

With Heartfelt Thanks,

The Atkins Family (Jeff, Angela, Abbigayle, Caroline, Sarah and Forever Claire)



The Atkins Family

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